



Virginia Department of Social Services

April 25, 2012



# Pathways:

The Opportunities  
Ahead for Human  
Services

**APHSA's National  
Policy Agenda**

# Our Members' Expertise

- We represent the nation's state human service agencies plus many local agencies and individual members. Our members administer all major assistance programs; we also play an important role in linking health care to human services.
- Our bipartisan membership seeks sound public policies designed to promote efficient, workable, and sustainable solutions to the needs of low income and vulnerable populations.

# Today's Reality



Pathways: The Opportunities Ahead for Human Services

Human services is on an unsustainable path

The country's political environment is polarized

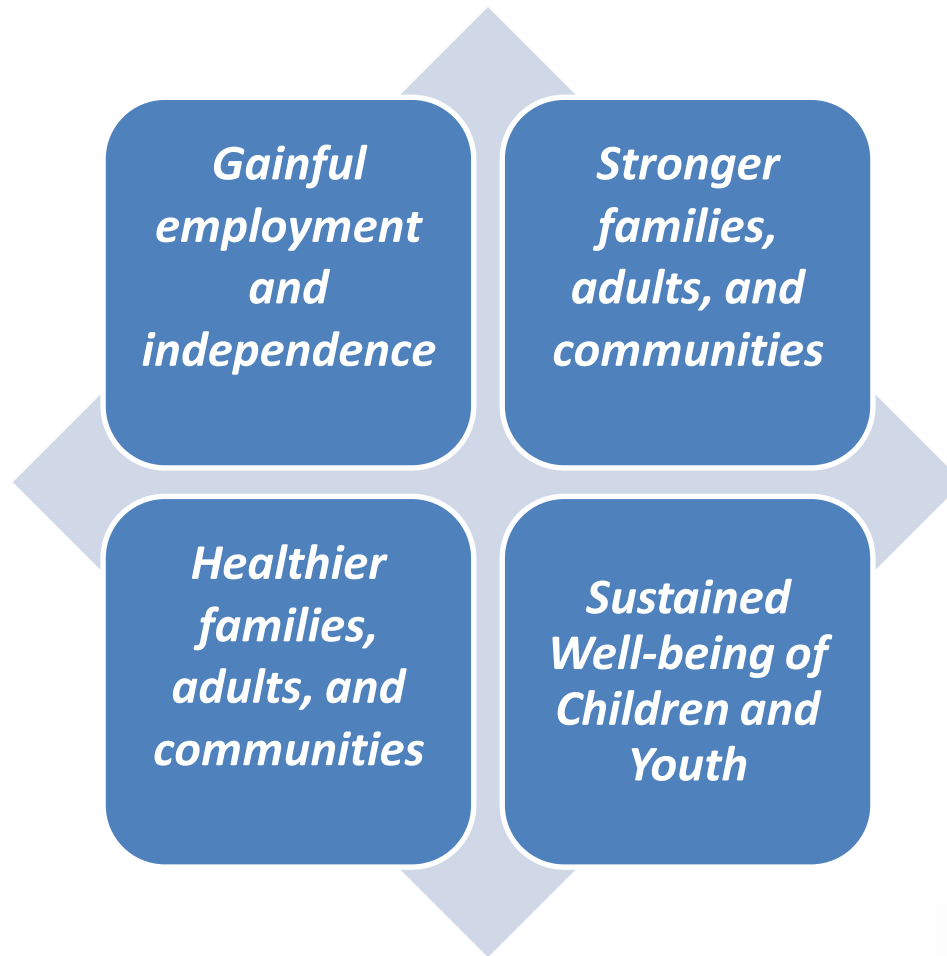
The country's economic environment is uncertain

Transformation of the human services system is paramount

# The Way Ahead . . .

- ***Our vision:***
  - Better and more sustainable outcomes
  - Integrated programs and funding streams that are client-centered and focused on results
  - Collaboration with all sectors of government and the community – a job for all of us
- ***Pathways:***
  - Member-driven plan to transform human services in response to the current unsustainable system
  - An ongoing effort – not paper- or event-specific

# The Outcomes We Seek



# Key Elements

*Our efforts focus on these key elements, which are preventive, collaborative, and strategic:*

- Prevention*
- Early intervention*
- Bridge supports*
- Capacity-building*
- Sustainability*

# Our Foundational Tools

- *Flexible financing*
- *Technology infrastructure*
- *A prepared workforce*
- *Accountability*
- *Client engagement*



# Pathways: Progress So Far

- *Open letter to policymakers and candidates*
- *Policy Briefs setting policy priorities for each of the four outcomes*
- *Policy Briefs on TANF and SNAP reauthorization recommendations*
- *Available on our website at:  
<http://www.aphsa.org/Policy/pathways.asp>*

# Policy Priorities

- *Employment supports, economic development, employer incentives*
- *Accountability measures for appropriate outcomes*
- *Collaboration within agencies and participation with community stakeholders, coupled with strong family engagement*
- *Broad supports for employment for people with disabilities*
- *Local, community-level needs must be recognized*
- *Horizontal integration and no-wrong-door access*
- *Prevention and early intervention ... over the lifespan*
- *Nutritious food/healthy choices in an integrated context*
- *Integrated, interoperable systems ... holistic, client-centered*
- *Increased innovations through waivers and pilots*
- *Research on evidence-based and evidence-informed practices*
- *Accountability must incentivize positive performance and continuous improvement*



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# Specific Policy Brief: TANF

*TANF: Opportunities for TANF to support APHSA's vision for a transformed human service system*

- TANF should support the outcome of gainful employment and independence
- TANF requires the flexibility to deploy the right mix of supports, funding, partnerships, and accountability measures, always reflecting each state's conditions
- Outcome metrics must focus on practical achievements reflecting true progress toward self-sufficiency
- Measurements must encompass all work, including part-time, and other key supports like education
- Support full collaboration with the many other partners in the work community, including reasonable accounting for such activities as education

# Specific Policy Brief: SNAP

*SNAP: Opportunities for SNAP to support APHSA's vision for a transformed human service system*

- SNAP should support the outcome of healthier families, adults, and communities; adequate nutrition and healthy eating are key to this outcome
- SNAP has done critically important work in alleviating hunger but must be substantially modernized so that it is simpler and less expensive to administer
- SNAP must become more flexible so that it can align with other programs, particularly health, and enable integrated application and eligibility functions
- SNAP regulations must allow the most modern business practices, including those available to other health and human service programs



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## *National Workgroup on Integration:*

- An APHSA-led collaboration with federal and vendor partners to identify opportunities and practical solutions for integrating human services and health programs
- Exemplifies the type of partnerships desired to transform the health and human services system
- Focused on providing practical, real-time guidance for states/localities while also driving system transformation
- Informing national policy development and direction
- Supporting practice innovations on the ground
- Breakthrough nature of the work supports the APHSA Innovation Center



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# Innovation Center

- Designed as a “launching pad” for emerging issues and breakthrough innovations in human services
- Supports transformation to an integrated, outcome-focused model as set forth in *Pathways*
- Four initial focus areas:
  - *Alternative Financing of Human Services*
  - *Adaptive Leadership*
  - *Government’s Role in the 21st Century*
  - *Social Return on Investment*

# Pathways: Coming Soon

- *Ready soon: Additional Policy Briefs on priority areas such as child welfare finance reform and Interoperable IT for Health and Human Service Programs*
- *Ready soon: Issue Briefs on key areas of exploration under the Innovation Center, such as alternative ways of financing human services*

# What's Next

- Continued dissemination of Pathways statements on our core vision, principles, and recommendations
- Continued and inclusive participation in this policy initiative by APHSA members through our affiliates, conferences, and other means
- Engagement and dialogue with the candidates, the Administration, and Congress
- Congress: in the context of an integrated system, specific recommendations for Congress
- Strategic partnerships with other state organizations and with other national stakeholders



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**The Federal  
Context**

# Congress

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- Partisan atmosphere – most significant issues are in stalemate
- House and Senate using different approaches to budget issues--no bipartisan, bicameral budget agreement likely until late 2013 if then

# Congress

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- Senate using Budget Control Act with sequestration to determine spending levels for FY 13
- House using its Budget Resolution which includes reconciliation to determine spending levels for FY13

# Congress

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- Sequestration is the across the board cuts in federal programs
- Reconciliation is based on recommendations from Congressional Committees about how to reform entitlement programs to reduce spending

# What to Expect This Year

- TANF authorization expires (again...) Sept. 30 – another short-term extension likely
- SNAP authorization expires Sept. 30; farm bill is unlikely, so probably a SNAP extension too
  - Fireworks whenever SNAP reauthorization does occur: cuts (including admin), categorical eligibility, work requirements, food choice, more
- Child Welfare Finance Reform continues to be a focus for possible legislative action



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# What to Expect This Year

- The Bush-era tax cuts expire—adding \$5 trillion in revenues to the US treasury over the next 10 years
- Sequestration takes effect January 2, 2013 (\$98 billion)
- The Social Security payroll tax break expires (\$100 billion)
- It is likely that Congress will have to increase the statutory debt limit in December

# What to Expect This Year

- Strong possibility that a continuing resolution to fund the government will need to be passed in December
- The current extension on unemployment benefits expire



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**The State-Local Context**



# Our Abilities and Resources

- *Improved extensive internal quality improvement processes*
- *Cross-jurisdictional collaboration efforts*
- *Effective leveraging of community resources*
- *Improved workforce knowledge*
- *Participation in local decision-making that impacts human services*
- *Increased public support for preventive investments*



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# Upstream Investments

## Washington State's Health and Safety Networks

- As an example of the progress being made, Walla Walla County experienced the following positive outcomes trends between 1998 and 2008:
  - A 31% reduction of births to moms ages 10-17
  - A 59% reduction in youth suicide attempts
  - A 48% reduction in youth alcohol violations
  - A 64% reduction in dropping out of school
  - A 48% reduction in youth arrests for violent crimes
  - A 33% reduction in adult arrests for violent crimes
  - A 33% reduction in domestic violence incidents

# Broad Partnership Platforms

## Catawba County, North Carolina: Family Net

- Family NET provides mental health and behavioral health services to Catawba County children, adolescents and their families. Services are provided in the traditional office setting as well as at school, in the home, and in other community settings.
- The Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) is an empirically-based assessment tool designed to objectively determine a youth's functioning across important life domains, match their needs with appropriate interventions or service programs, and track progress toward desired outcomes. Currently 96% of consumers are showing significant improvement in at least one domain on the Child And Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) after 6 months of treatment services.



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# Cross-Program Innovation

## Kenosha County, Wisconsin: The Job Center

- The Job Center is one of the original models for one-stop services integration in Wisconsin. Today almost all of Kenosha County's human services are located in the Job Center building, including those for aging and disability, children and families, workforce development, veterans, and health.
- Kenosha met or exceeded the state's job entry and job retention performance goals for both 2010 and 2011, despite a downturn in the economy that impacted this county more significantly than the state as a whole.

# Common System Drivers

- State-local collaborative agreements.
- Spending fewer resources on improved outcomes.
- Effective change management and continuous improvement methods.
- Adaptive leadership teams.



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**Connecting to the  
Purpose of  
Your Conference**

# Working Together

- Successes are already occurring across your state.
- Invest in key foundational supports:
- Interoperable technology and data/analysis capabilities.
- A high-performing workforce.
- Continue working together like you are today.



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**Join us for Our Annual  
Policy Forum, June 3-5  
in Washington DC**